

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): An information distributing method for distributing information subjected to billing in an information distributing system, characterized in that an amount of money billed to a user each subsequent time said information is distributed to said user is determined depending on the number of times that said information has previously been distributed to ~~at least one a plurality of user~~-users within a predetermined time period, each said amount of money billed being determined independently for each time said information is distributed.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The information distributing method according to claim 1, wherein said time period is one from a predetermined time point to a current time point.

Claim 3 (previously resented): The information distributing method according to claim 1, wherein said time period is a definite term from a predetermined time point.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The information distributing method according to claim 1, wherein said time period is one from an optionally set time point to a current time point.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The information distributing method according to claim 1, wherein said time period is one from a first optionally set time point to a second optionally set time point.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The information distributing method according to claim 1, wherein said time period is a definite term from an optionally set time point.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The information distributing method according to claim 1, wherein said time period is a definite term down to the current time point.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The information distributing method according to claim 1, wherein said time period is one until an optionally set time point.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The information distributing method according to claim 1, wherein when said number of times of distribution reaches a previously set number of times or more, said amount of money billed for said information is raised.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The information distributing method according to claim 1, wherein when said number of times of distribution reaches a previously set number of times or more, said amount of money billed for said information is reduced.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The information distributing method according to claim 1, wherein said amount of money billed for said information is determined depending on a value obtained by substituting said number of times of distribution for a previously set function.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The information distributing method according to claim 1, wherein said information is audio information, video information, game information or book information, or any combination of them.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The information distributing method according to claim 1, wherein said information is distributed by using wireless communication or wired communication.

Claim 14 (currently amended): An information distributing method for distributing information subjected to billing in an information distributing system, characterized in that an amount of money billed to a user each subsequent time said information is distributed to said user is determined in a composite manner depending on respective numbers of times that said information has previously been distributed to at least one user ~~a plurality of users~~ in a plurality of set terms, each said amount of money billed being determined independently for each time said information is distributed.

Claim 15 (currently amended): An information distributing method for distributing information subjected to billing in an information distributing system, characterized in that a receiver selects at least one term of a plurality of set terms and an amount of money billed to a user each

subsequent time said information is distributed to said user is determined depending on the number of times that said information has previously been distributed to at least one user ~~a plurality of users~~ in said selected term, each said amount of money billed being determined independently for each time said information is distributed.

Claim 16 (currently amended): An information distributing method for distributing information subjected to billing in an information distributing system, comprising the steps of:

distributing said information to a user;

counting the number of times said information is previously distributed to at least one user ~~a plurality of users~~; and

controlling a billing system for billing an amount of money for a next subsequent distribution depending on the number of previous distributions counted, each said amount of money billed being determined independently for each time said information is distributed.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The information distributing system according to claim 16, wherein the counted distribution number is compared with a reference value.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A transaction method to control a billing system for information to be distributed, comprising the steps of:

counting a number of previous distributions of said information to at least one user ~~a plurality of users~~; and

controlling a billing information for billing an amount of money for a next subsequent distribution depending on a counted number of previous distributions, each said

amount of money billed being determined independently for each time said information is distributed.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The transaction method according to claim 18, wherein said step for controlling a billing information includes a step for comparing said counted number of distribution with a reference value.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A transaction system to control a billing system for information to be distributed, comprising:

a means for counting a number of previous distributions of said information to at least one user ~~a plurality of users~~; and

a means for controlling a billing information for billing an amount of money for a next subsequent distribution depending on a counted number of previous distributions, each said amount of money billed being determined independently for each time said information is distributed.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The transaction system according to claim 20, wherein said means for controlling a billing information includes a means for comparing said counted number of distribution with a reference value.

Claim 22 (currently amended): A transaction method to control a billing system for information to be distributed, comprising the steps of:

counting the number of times that a content is previously distributed to at least one user ~~a plurality of users~~ during a predetermined time period, the at least one user ~~a plurality of users~~ being billed at the time of distribution for an amount of money of said content;

charging said amount of money to be billed to the at least one user ~~a plurality of users~~ for a next subsequent distribution of said content based on the result of counting of said previous distributions; and

billing a plurality of users for said charged amount of money of said content when said content is subsequently distributed to the at least one user ~~a plurality of users~~ after said charging of the amount of money, each said amount of money billed being determined independently for each time said information is distributed.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The information distributing method according to claim 1, wherein said amount of money billed for subsequent distributions of said information is automatically altered each time said distribution reaches predetermined distribution thresholds associated with said number of times said information has previously been distributed.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The information distributing method according to claim 16, wherein said amount of money billed for subsequent distributions of said information is automatically altered each time said distribution reaches predetermined distribution thresholds associated with said number of times said information has previously been distributed.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The transaction system according to claim 20, wherein said amount of money billed for subsequent distributions of said information is automatically altered

- each time said distribution reaches predetermined distribution thresholds associated with said number of times said information has previously been distributed.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The transaction method according to claim 22, wherein said amount of money billed for subsequent distributions of said information is automatically altered each time said distribution reaches predetermined distribution thresholds associated with said number of times said information has previously been distributed.